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Another rural Alabama hospital closing

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Georgiana Medical Center will close March 31. (Georgiana Medical Center)

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Butler County's Georgiana Medical Center will close on March 31.



The hospital's operator, Ivy Creek of Butler, says patient care will be directed to L.V. Stabler Memorial Hospital in Greenville, as well as to other providers.

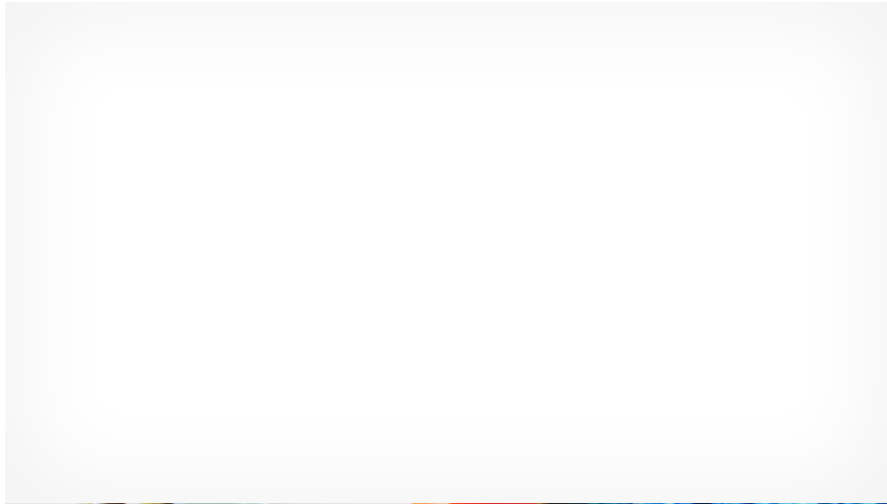
According to The Andalusia Star-News, the hospital will become the 13th Alabama hospital to close in eight years, and the seventh rural hospital to close.

Officials with Ivy Creek, L.V. Stabler and the City of Greenville are expected to answer questions about the plan at a news conference later today.

Ivy Creek says its rural health clinics will continue to operate under the management of L.V. Stabler, while the two entities will also combine their home health agencies under Ivy Creek. The moves were attributed to the "current difficult financial environment faced by rural healthcare providers."

"The rising costs of healthcare coupled with the cuts in reimbursement have made it impractical to maintain financial viability with two hospitals operating in Butler County," Ivy Creek CEO Mike Bruce said in a release. "The partnering of the two organizations is the optimal way to continue to provide overall high quality healthcare for the residents of Butler County as well as the surrounding areas."





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